



**State Board of Education Request for  
Freeway School Accreditation**

<b>Name of Requesting School:</b>	The Crossing Education Center
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<b>Board Date:</b>	September 1, 2010	<b>Grade Span:</b>	
<b>Education Director:</b>	Rob Staley	<b>Public or Private:</b>	Private
<b>Location Address:</b>	2930 S Nappanee Street	<b>Enrollment:</b>	400
<b>City/Town:</b>	Elkhart	<b>Targeted Student Population:</b>	6-12

**Indiana Department of Education  
Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation**

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

**Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:**

1. **Identity** – Crossing Educational Center (CEC) is a private alternative school in Elkhart, Indiana, established in 2003 by Rob Staley, former public school principal for 20 years. The school focuses on four core areas including Academics, Character Development, Leadership, and Careers. CEC's primary strategy of motivating students is through developing meaningful relationships during the school day and after school hours. CEC has contracted with 13 school corporations who choose to pay for their students to attend school at the Crossing. CEC was created for the sole purpose of providing support to public schools through a partnership with the local public schools. A local board is established by school community members to ensure that the school continues to function as a small learning community. The Department of Education recognizes CEC as one corporate school, located in Elkhart, Indiana with eight other satellite campuses located in the following communities: South Bend, Goshen, Ligonier, Butler, New Haven, Pierceton, Frankfort, and Kokomo. CEC is under the direction of the board of directors of The Crossing National, Inc. The board of directors serves as the governing body for school accountability, budget, and operations.
2. **Attendance** – Attendance has been a large barrier to education for many CEC students. Most students have struggled academically, socially, behaviorally, and even physically due to a long-term ailment. Several students enrolling at CEC have been expelled from a public high school for various reasons or have dropped out of the public school. The Crossing is maintaining a minimum 85% attendance rate and continuing efforts to improve that rate.
3. **Graduation** – CEC currently offers a curriculum for those students seeking a Core 40 diploma. Although some students may take additional elective offerings at their district public school, CEC

is not currently equipped for all students to earn an Academic Honors Diploma, but will become involved in the DOE's initiative to offer online AP courses.

**4. Benchmarks –**

- a. Attendance Rate
- b. Credits Earned
- c. Dual Credits Earned
- d. End of Course Assessment Passing Rate
- e. Graduation Rate
- f. NWEA
- g. Participation in area vocational training courses.

**5. Staffing –** A high percentage of staff are licensed in Indiana. Those who are not are frequently involved in non-teaching roles. Professional development is a priority at CEC with our faculty members having advanced degrees and participating in ongoing staff development programs. All staff members are required to participate in professional development eleven days a year. The CEC staff is committed to excellence in professional development, whether it is in the form of continuing education of the faculty, professional in-service programs in the school, or attending professional workshops.

**6. Waiver Requests:**

- a. High School Curriculum - Electives Only (511 IAC 6.1-3-4)
- b. Middle Level Curriculum - Electives Only (511 IAC 6.1-5-3.5)
- c. Textbooks (511 IAC 6.1-5-5) and Textbook Adoption Process (IC 20-10.1-9)

CEC offers all courses required by the state of Indiana in sixth through twelfth grades. The curriculum is carefully aligned with the Indiana Academic Standards in each course.

Technology is an integral part of the educational process including the use of Apex Learning software program for most of the subjects. About 70% of the curriculum is taught using Apex Learning and 30% is taught through direct instruction by certified teachers. The use of Apex Learning software as a major source of the curriculum is a strong component of the school.

**Issues:** Teacher licensing.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that The Crossing Education Center be granted Freeway Accreditation for five years, expiring in September 1, 2015.

**Rationale:** After an on-site visit and discussions with the school leadership, teacher licensing is typical of other Freeway accredited schools.